

To: R6Press[R6Press@epa.gov]
From: Durant, Jennah
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[Daily News Digest 031918.pdf](#)

***Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.**

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1 — Eight years later: Unresolved 'poultry lawsuit' just one piece of complicated Illinois River portrait, Tulsa World, 3/18/18

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/state/eight-years-later-unresolved-poultry-lawsuit-just-one-piece-of/article_3fe5ee80-0e36-5cd0-8e53-31e2f62bb8a9.html

In 2009, at a peak moment in decades of conflict between Oklahoma and Arkansas over water quality in the Illinois River, one of the 60 witnesses called into U.S. District Court in Tulsa to testify in front of Judge Gregory Frizzell experienced what he looks back upon as, “an eye-opening event.”

2 — Coastal News Roundup: Refinery Flare Edition, WWNO, 3/16/18

<http://wwno.org/post/coastal-news-roundup-refinery-flare-edition>

Last weekend, New Orleanians noticed a big fireball coming from the Chalmette Refining refinery. Some worried there had been an explosion, but it turns out it was a really big flare — a fiery plume that burns off excess stuff created during the oil refining process. (*radio story*)

3 — NTMWD assures public that water is safe and complies with regulations, North Texas E-News, 3/17/18

http://www.ntxe-news.com/artman/publish/article_110311.shtml

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) officials assure the public that the processes used to treat and maintain the safety and quality of the district’s drinking water meet federal and state standards.

4 — Emerging Audubon Park plan: long on ‘amenities,’ short on green space, The Lens NOLA, 3/17/18

<https://thelensnola.org/2018/03/17/emerging-audubon-park-plan-long-on-amenities-short-on-green-space/>

After hearing Audubon Institute president Ron Forman and park master plan architect Mark Ripple advocate for “finding a balance” between recreational activities and passive green space on the Fly, many of us suspect that Audubon Park, like our Louisiana coastline, is rapidly disappearing.

5 — U.S. EPA watchdog says agency did not use possibly flawed methane data for regulation, Chemical & Engineering News, 3/16/18

<https://cen.acs.org/articles/96/web/2018/03/US-EPA-watchdog-says-agency.html>

In an attempt to resolve a scientific controversy stretching back to 2013, U.S. EPA’s inspector general (IG) has determined that the agency has not relied on possibly flawed results from a study of methane emissions from oil and gas fields.

6 — La. lawmakers to Zinke: Don't rob our coast, E&E News, 3/16/18

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2018/03/16/stories/1060076537>

A pair of Louisiana GOP lawmakers urged caution on an Interior Department plan to use new energy revenues to fund an \$11.6 billion public lands maintenance backlog.

7 — OPINION: Louisiana shouldn't let BP spill regulations be erased, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 3/18/18

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2018/03/bp_regulations.html#incart_river_index

The next time an oil spill is oozing toward the Cajun coast Louisiana business leaders and politicians who try to beg the nation for help and sympathy can expect this answer: "Hey, this is the bargain you made. Live with it."

8 — EPA may be overstating claims from Gold King Mine spill, Durango (CO) Herald, 3/16/18

<https://durangoherald.com/articles/213816>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it has almost finished an overdue review of damage claims from the Gold King Mine spill that the agency accidentally triggered, but an internal agency accounting of those claims appears to be off by tens of millions of dollars.

9 — Governors Ask For No RFS Changes, WHO TV, 3/19/18

<http://whotv.com/2018/03/19/governors-ask-for-no-rfs-changes/>

There is pressure in Washington to make changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and state leaders are responding.

10 — Drought intensifies across southwestern U.S., Albuquerque Journal, 3/17/18

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1146809/drought-marches-across-us-southern-high-plains.html>

The amount of moisture received across the United States' southern high plains since October has been ridiculously low, and forecasters warned Friday that the intensifying drought has resulted in critical fire danger and some winter wheat crops being reduced to stubble across several states.

11 — RIO program introduces 4th-graders to the bosque, Albuquerque Journal, 3/18/18

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1147556/bosque-field-trips-bring-water-lessons-to-life.html>

The RIO program is geared specifically for fourth-graders, who travel to one of three locations – the Rio Grande Nature Center, the National Hispanic Cultural Center and the ABQ BioPark Botanic Gardens. At each site an indoor classroom-type session is held before the kids take a guided walk through the bosque.

12 — Former Coal Lobbyist On Tap For No. 2 Spot At EPA, Texas Public Radio, 3/17/18

<http://tpr.org/post/former-coal-lobbyist-tap-no-2-spot-epa>

President Trump's nominee for deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Andrew Wheeler, has spent much of his career working for less oversight from the agency.

13 — Oklahoma grid operator says wind provided more than 60 percent of the power Friday, The Oklahoman, 3/17/18

<http://newsok.com/oklahoma-grid-operator-says-wind-provided-more-than-60-percent-of-the-power-friday/article/5587464>

If you were awake at 3:45 a.m., there was a better than six in 10 chance your light, television, phone charger or whatever electrical device you were using at that moment was using power generated by a wind farm.

14 — Solar sector brushes off Trump, tariffs, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 3/18/18

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/mar/18/solar-sector-brushes-off-trump-tariffs-/?f=latest>

The U.S. solar industry had its second-best year on record for installations in 2017, despite the election of an administration that promotes fossil fuels and some worry injected into the market by President Donald Trump's import tariffs, an analysis found last week.